



Tentative deal reached to end Los Angeles teachers strike

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
and BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A crowd of teachers roared its approval after a tentative deal was announced Tuesday between Los Angeles school officials and the union that will allow educators to return to classrooms after a six-day strike in the nation's second-largest district.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, accompanied by leaders of United Teachers Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District, announced the agreement at City Hall a few hours after a 21-hour bargaining session ended before dawn.



From left, Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl, Austin Beutner, Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti listen to questions during a news conference after a tentative deal was reached Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, between school officials and the teachers union that will allow educators to return to classrooms after a six-day strike against the nation's second-largest district.

Continued on Page 3

Associated Press

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In this Jan. 7, 2019 photo, The Supreme Court is seen in Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

High court lets military implement transgender restrictions

By **JESSICA GRESKO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration can go ahead with its plan to restrict military service by transgender men and women while court challenges continue, the Supreme Court said Tuesday. The high court split 5-4 in allowing the plan to take effect, with the court's five conservatives greenlighting it and its four liberal members saying they would not have. The order from the court was brief and procedural, with no elaboration from the justices.

The court's decision clears the way for the Pentagon to bar enlistment by people who have undergone a gender transition. It will also allow the administration to require that military personnel serve as members of their biological gender unless they began a gender transition under less restrictive Obama administration rules.

The Trump administration has sought for more than a year to change the Obama-era rules and had urged the justices to take up cases about its transgender troop policy immediately, but the court declined for now.

Those cases will continue to move through lower courts and could eventually reach the Supreme Court again. The fact that five justices were willing to allow the policy to take effect for now, however, makes it more likely the Trump ad-

ministration's policy will ultimately be upheld.

Both the Justice and Defense departments released statements saying they were pleased by the Supreme Court's action. The Pentagon said its policy on transgender troops is based on professional military judgment and necessary to "ensure the most lethal and combat effective fighting force." Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said lower court rulings had forced the military to "maintain a prior policy that poses a risk to military effectiveness and lethality."

Before beginning to implement its policy the administration is expected to need to make a procedural filing in one case in Maryland challenging the plan. That request could be made this week.

Groups that sued over the Trump administration's policy said they ultimately hoped to win their lawsuits over the policy. Jennifer Levi, an attorney for GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, said in a statement that the "Trump administration's cruel obsession with ridding our military of dedicated and capable service members because they happen to be transgender defies reason and cannot survive legal review."

Until a few years ago service members could be discharged from the military for being transgender. That changed under the

Obama administration. The military announced in 2016 that transgender people already serving in the military would be allowed to serve openly. And the military set July 1, 2017, as the date when transgender individuals would be allowed to enlist. But after President Donald Trump took office, the administration delayed the enlistment date, saying the issue needed further study. And in late July 2017 the president tweeted that the government would not allow "Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military." He later directed the military to return to its policy before the Obama administration changes.

Groups representing transgender individuals sued, and the Trump administration lost early rounds in those cases, with courts issuing nationwide injunctions barring the administration from altering course. The Supreme Court put those injunctions on hold Tuesday, allowing the Trump administration's policy to take effect.

The Trump administration's revised policy on transgender troops dates to March 2018. The policy generally bars transgender people from serving unless they do so "in their biological sex" and do not seek to undergo a gender transition. But it has an exception for transgender troops who relied on the Obama-era rules to begin the process of changing their gender. □

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Tentative deal reached to end Los Angeles teachers strike

Continued from Front

"I'm proud to announce that, pending approval by the teachers represented by UTLA and educational professionals and this Board of Education, we have an agreement that will allow our teachers to go back to work on their campuses tomorrow," Garcetti said. Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl said the 30,000 members would vote later Tuesday, and he expected approval. A union summary of the agreement called it "historic" and urged teachers to vote yes to ratify. Educators met with UTLA representatives to familiarize themselves with the details before casting ballots. It wasn't clear when the vote results would be known, but teachers were expected to be back at work on Wednesday. The deal was broadly described by officials at the news conference as in-

cluding a 6 percent pay hike and a commitment to reduce class sizes over four years.

Specifics provided later by the district and the union included the addition of more than 600 nursing positions over the next three school years. Additional counselors and librarians were also part of the increase in support staff.

Marianne O'Brien said the need for additional support staff was one of the main reasons she walked picket lines. "This is not just for teachers. It's also for counselors, nurses, psychologists and social workers," said O'Brien, who teaches 10th grade English.

The new contract also eliminates a longstanding clause that gave the district authority over class sizes, officials said. Grades 4 through 12 would be reduced by one student during each of the next two school years and two pupils

in 2021-2022.

District Superintendent Austin Beutner said he was delighted the deal was reached. But he hinted that financial challenges remained.

"The issue has always been

how do we pay for it?" Beutner said. "That issue does not go away now that we have a contract. We can't solve 40 years of underinvestment in public education in just one week or just one contract."

Under the tentative agreement, the district, the union and the mayor's office will work jointly to "advocate for increased county and state funding" for Los Angeles schools, according to the UTLA summary. □



Marianne O'Brien, second from right, and her fellow teachers pose in downtown Los Angeles after rallying at City Hall, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press



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Defying Pelosi, Trump proceeds with State of the Union plans

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is moving forward with plans for President Donald Trump to deliver his State of the Union speech next week in front of a joint session of Congress — despite a letter from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi requesting he delay it. The White House sent an email to the House sergeant-at-arms asking to schedule a walk-through in anticipation of a Jan. 29 address, according to a White House official who was not authorized to discuss the planning by name



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., center, smiles as she helps give out food at World Central Kitchen, the not-for-profit organization started by Chef Jose Andres, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Nancy Pelosi made the invitation to the president on the State of the Union. He accepted," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "At this point, we're moving forward."

The move is the latest in a game of political brinksmanship between Trump and the House Speaker as they remain locked in an increasingly personal standoff over Trump's demand for border wall funding that has forced a partial government shutdown that is now in its second month.

The gamesmanship began last week when Pelosi sent a letter to Trump suggesting that he either deliver the speech in writing or postpone it until after the partial government shutdown is resolved, citing security concerns. But the White House maintains Pelosi never formally rescinded her invitation, and is, in essence, calling her bluff.

"She has not canceled it. She asked us to postpone it," White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said in an interview Tuesday with Fox News Channel.

"We have no announcement at this time," he said, "but Nancy Pelosi does not dictate to the president when he will or will not have a conversation with the American people."

At the same time, the White House is continuing to work on contingency plans to give Trump a backup in case the joint-session plans fall through. The president cannot speak in front of a joint session of Congress without both chambers' explicit permission. A resolution needs to be agreed to by both chambers specifying the date and time for

receiving an address from the president.

Officials have been considering a list of potential alternative venues, including a rally-style event, an Oval office address — as Pelosi previously suggested — a speech before the Senate chamber, and even a return visit to the U.S.-Mexico border as Trump is expected to continue to hammer the need for a barrier, according to two others familiar with the discussions. Multiple versions are also being drafted to suit the final venue.

The Constitution states only that the president "shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union," meaning the president can speak anywhere he chooses or give his update in writing. But a joint address in the House chamber, in front of lawmakers from both parties, the Supreme Court justices and invited guests, provides the kind of grand backdrop that is hard to mimic and that this president, especially, enjoys.

Still, North Carolina's House Speaker Tim Moore wrote a letter inviting Trump to deliver the speech in the North Carolina House chamber. And Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield on Friday invited Trump to deliver the address at the state Capitol in Lansing instead.

Trump called Moore Monday evening, according to his office, and spoke by phone with Chatfield Tuesday morning, Chatfield tweeted.

"I understand you have other plans for #SOTU, but as we discussed, I look forward to hosting you in Michigan again soon," Chatfield wrote. □



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Confederate flag from S. Carolina Statehouse put on display

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The last Confederate flag to fly at the South Carolina Statehouse has quietly been put on display at a museum, ending a three-year saga over what to do with the rebel banner, which was removed after nine black church members were killed in a racist attack on a Charleston church.

On Nov. 26, Confederate Relic Room staff put the nylon flag into a \$1,400 viewing case that hangs between two offices amid a display of other historical South Carolina flags, museum Executive Director Allen Robeson said after a budget presentation to lawmakers on Tuesday.

"I'm sure we won't satisfy everybody. But it is up," Robeson said.

The display of the flag itself was a political compromise, hurriedly reached in the wee hours of the morning when it appeared removing the banner from the Statehouse was going

to fall a few votes short. The agreement that lawmakers approved called for "appropriate, permanent and public display" of the flag, the last to fly at the Capitol near a monument to Confederate soldiers.

On July 10, 2015, a special team of state troopers in dress uniforms pulled down the flag, carefully wrapped it in special paper and gave it to Robeson. He carried it to an armored van for the six-block trip to the Confederate Relic Room.

The museum initially proposed a nearly \$4 million project that included a massive restoration of its building and a high-tech display including screens displaying pictures or names of Civil War dead.

That idea fell flat and the flag stayed in a small, flat, acid-free box behind several locked doors as Robeson came up with other proposals, including a recent request for \$200,000 to renovate the two offices on either side of the flag's new home.



In this July 10, 2015, file photo, members of an honor guard from the South Carolina Highway patrol lower the Confederate battle flag as it is removed from the Capitol grounds in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

GOP unveils fundraising tool to rival Democrats' ActBlue

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican Party believes it finally has its answer to the Democratic fundraising behemoth ActBlue.

GOP groups are lending their support to a new donor platform called Patriot Pass, which they say will help the party match and even surpass the organization that sent more than \$700 million to Democratic campaigns in 2018. After the Republican Party's midterm losses, party officials said they needed to find a way to match the small-dollar fundraising power of ActBlue.

The Republican platform is a joint effort of GOP payment processing firm Revv and the party's data clearinghouse, DataTrust. Revv founder Gerrit Lansing, who briefly worked as White House chief digital officer, said that combination will help the GOP pass Democrats.

Democrats are playing a game of catch-up of their own, struggling to create a hub for their data to rival DataTrust. Patriot Pass is meant to allow the GOP to unite its donor and political databases, helping the party to improve its small-dollar fundraising and understanding of the electorate.

The GOP platform will allow one-click donations, like ActBlue does, to candidates and committees on the political right, leading to more streamlined donations to Republican causes.

"Reducing the friction increases donations," said Lansing, who said the party studied ActBlue and e-commerce sites. □

After last year's budget passed without the funds in it, Robeson commissioned a special case to fit the flag and protect it from ultraviolet light. Once that was finished, South Carolina's final Confederate flag found its home quietly.

It's not the conclusion Robeson wanted. He and others in his museum felt the flag was a political item that didn't need to be in a

military museum.

"The staff feels very strongly it is not a military artifact. It doesn't need to be stuck on a wall somewhere in a frame," Robeson said in June 2017. "A lot of these flags have gunpowder, blood, bullet holes — they were what 18- and 19-year-old boys died fighting under. This is not the same thing."

Attendance at the Confed-

erate Relic Room dropped for a while as the flag controversy swirled. Robeson told lawmakers Thursday that it had finally increased by about 2,000 people in 2018.

Now that the flag is back on permanent display, Robeson has asked for a one-time allocation of \$25,000 to increase security, both when the museum is open and after-hours. □

Mom arrested after dead baby found in Amazon site's restroom

PHOENIX (AP) — A woman has been arrested on suspicion of unlawful disposal of human remains after her newborn baby was found dead inside a bathroom at an Amazon distribution center in southwest Phoenix last week, police announced Tuesday.

Samantha Vivier, 22, was booked into jail and scheduled to have her initial court appearance Tuesday night.

Court documents weren't immediately available, but police said they don't believe anyone else was involved in the baby's death. It wasn't immediately clear Tuesday evening if Vivier had a lawyer who could speak on her behalf.



This undated photo provided by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office shows Samantha Vivier.

Associated Press

A day later, police said they had found and spoken with the baby's mother but didn't say whether she was an Amazon employee to prevent her identity from being revealed.

Amazon said in a statement last week that the

company was working with police to support the investigation and called the incident "terribly sad and tragic." The company's massive distribution center on the city's southwest side is one of several Amazon sites in metro Phoenix. □

Boys school shuts down amid fallout over Washington videos

By **BRUCE SCHREINER** and **JOHN MINCHILLO**

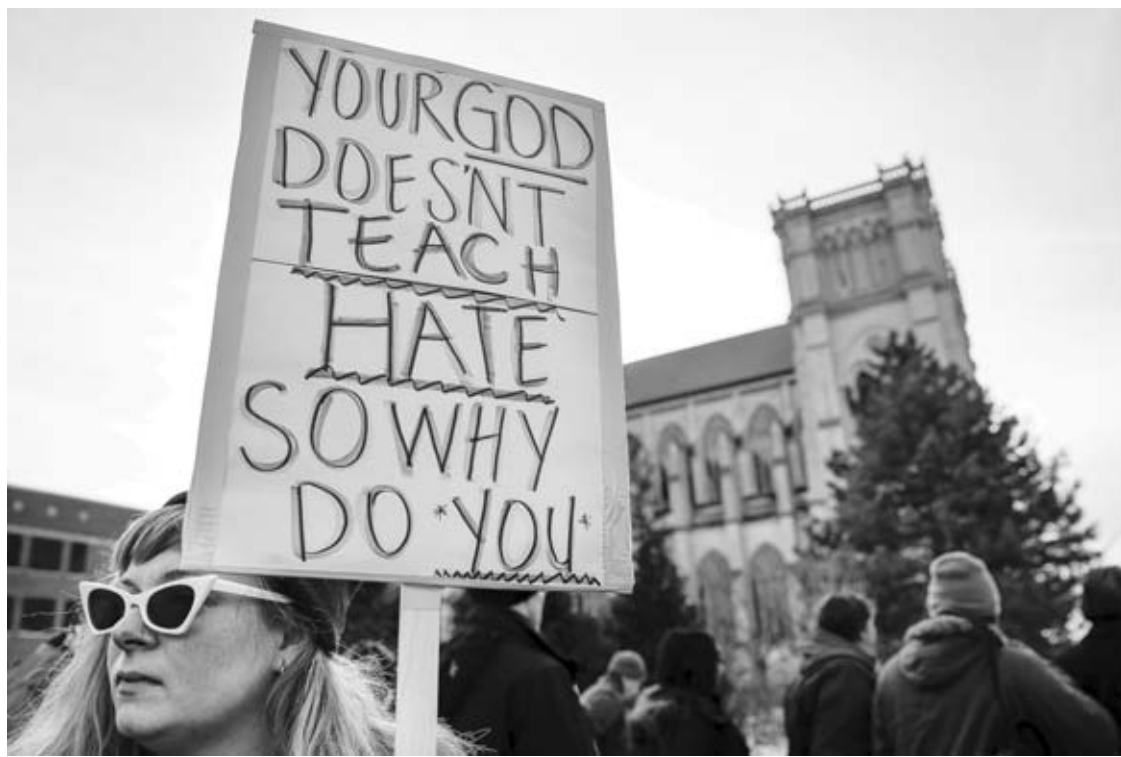
Associated Press

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky boys' school shut down its campus Tuesday as a precaution and a small protest was held outside their diocese as fallout continued over an encounter involving white teenagers, Native American marchers and a black religious sect outside the Lincoln Memorial last week.

President Donald Trump tweeted early Tuesday that the students at Covington Catholic High School "have become symbols of Fake News and how evil it can be" but says he hopes the teens will use the attention for good, and "maybe even to bring people together."

The recorded images that initially generated outrage on social media were tightly focused on the students wearing "Make America Great Again" hats, who seemed to laugh derisively as they surrounded an elderly Native American beating a drum.

Longer videos from wider perspectives emerged later over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. They revealed the drummer — Omaha Nation elder Nathan Phillips — had intervened between the boys and the religious sect. That came after the teens seemed to grow rowdier and the black street preacher who had been



Protestors gather outside the Catholic Diocese of Covington Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, in Covington, Ky.

shouting racist statements against both groups escalated his rhetoric.

Soon, all sides were pointing fingers, giving their own accounts about feeling victimized and misunderstood.

"We just don't know what the volatility of the situation is with these people that react and they don't know the full story. And it's very scary," Jill Hamlin of Cincinnati, a chaperone for the boys as they attended an anti-abortion rally, told FOX News on Tuesday morning. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington said in a statement late Tuesday that local police alerted them a protest was planned. It

said officials were advised to close school "due to threats of violence and the possibility of large crowds" adding they would reopen school when police "say it is safe to do so."

The diocese, which previously criticized the students' behavior, promised to begin its investigation of events this week.

"This is a very serious matter that has already permanently altered the lives of many people. It is important for us to gather the facts that will allow us to determine what corrective actions, if any, are appropriate." The school and the diocese websites were taken offline.

Associated Press

The American Indian Movement Chapter of Indiana and Kentucky held a small protest outside the diocese office, with activists outnumbered by the media.

Albert Running Wolf, a Native American from Fort Thomas, Kentucky, referred to Nathan Phillips during the event as "an honorable man" who was trying to be a peacemaker, but ended up being verbally attacked. He said Phillips deserves an apology.

"It doesn't matter what color they were, what political factions they were. It was disrespect—straight-forward." Protesters ended the rally on a street corner near the diocese by singing

a song from the American Indian Movement while two Native Americans beat drums.

Kathleen Seither of Cold Spring, Kentucky, said she attended the rally in support of Native Americans, appalled by the students' behavior. "They have embarrassed their school, their city, their parents, their state, their country." Seither said their actions are an example of "white male privilege, a product of everything in today's world including the president."

A smaller group supporting the teens converged closer to the diocese building.

Among them was Cincinnati resident Maureen Green, a former Catholic and mother of three whose sign read: "I stand with the boys. Facts not fiction." She said she thought the boys had been misrepresented and "railroaded" by some media accounts.

"I think these boys are learning a lot about how the world really works. It's a life lesson," she said.

Meanwhile, the school's principal, Robert Rowe, said school officials closed the campus as a safety precaution. Police cars blocked school entrances Tuesday afternoon.

Phillips, for his part, offered to visit the boys' campus for a dialogue on cultural appropriation, racism and the importance of listening to and respecting diverse cultures. □

Newark operations resume after drone reports halt arrivals



In this Sept. 8, 2008 file photo, planes are parked at terminals at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Flight arrivals at Newark Airport were briefly suspended Tuesday evening after a drone was spotted over another nearby airport, officials said, in the latest incident of the unmanned aircraft affecting commercial air travel.

At about 5 p.m., the Federal Aviation Administration received two reports from flights headed to Newark that they had spotted a drone about 3,500 feet (1,000 meters) over

nearby Teterboro Airport. The administration said in a statement that arriving flights were held briefly but resumed after no further sightings were reported.

The airport, which serves New York City, said just after 7 p.m. that it was operating normally again. The FAA had no reports of delays at the airport on its website. Brett Sosnik was on a United Airlines flight bound for Newark when the pilot told passengers that they would be circling in the air be-

cause of a drone spotted in Newark airspace. Sosnik, who was returning from the Bahamas, said his plane circled for about half an hour.

"I was looking around trying to find a drone in the air when we were closer to landing, but I didn't see anything," said Sosnik, a New York City resident who works in marketing. "There's got to be a way to combat that stuff and not have it affect huge airports with such a little piece of technology." □



University of Oklahoma President, James Gallogly, addresses the media at the school in Norman, Okla., Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, to talk about a video that showed an OU student wearing black face.

Associated Press

Ex-University of Okla. students apologize for racist video

By **SEAN MURPHY**
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — University of Oklahoma students demanded more from their campus administrators Tuesday, hours after the school released public apologies from two former students who were involved in a video in which one of the women wore blackface and used a racial slur.

About 1,000 students and faculty members gathered at a campus rally Tuesday during which administrators condemned the video in which a white woman is seen with black paint on her face as another white woman laughs. But as students and university officials took their turn at the microphone, many said they need to see more from campus leadership. Suzette Grillo, the former dean of OU's College of International Studies who was fired from her post last week, asked university President Jim Gallogly, who was sitting in the front row, to resign.

"Enough is enough," said Grillo, who remains a tenured professor at OU. "No more racism. No more." She held up a sign that read "Resign now" and

dropped it in Gallogly's lap, prompting cheers from many of the students at the rally.

Gallogly said afterward that he had no plans to resign and was working to accomplish many of the goals outlined by OU's Black Student Association, including adding a zero-tolerance policy on hate speech to the student code of conduct and hiring more African-American faculty and staff. "I'm here trying to do a good job for our students and the taxpayers of the state of Oklahoma," Gallogly said.

Student Courtney Patterson echoed the calls from the OU Black Student Association and said he wants to see the administration do more to teach those goals.

"The university is trying to make the right decisions, but I think they need to include more students in the conversation moving forward," Patterson said, "because an apology is simply not going to be enough."

Before Tuesday's rally, Gallogly also met with Native American students, one of whom performed a cedar burning prayer and another who marked his face with Oklahoma red clay as

part of an indigenous ritual of protection.

"I really hope the administration takes on our voice and that they actually listen to us," said Lauren Noriega, a sophomore from Lawton and a member of the Comanche Nation.

The university said the written apologies, in which both women said they never intended to hurt anyone, were sent to the Office of University Community on Saturday, a day after the video surfaced. Gallogly announced Monday — noting it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which honors the slain black civil rights leader — that both women had voluntarily withdrawn from campus.

Frances Ford said in her statement that the video was "insensitive and irresponsible," adding: "I am truly heartbroken over this mistake and deeply regret any adverse reactions." Olivia Urban called the video "the most regrettable decision of my life."

"My heart hurts to see the traumatic impact my words and actions have had on those who have been hurt of my behalf," Urban said. "There is no excuse for this behavior, in private or in public." □

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This Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, photo provided by the Montana Department of Justice shows the vehicle Fox News host Bret Baier and his family were riding in that overturned outside Bozeman, Montana.

Associated Press

Fox News host, family survive car crash in Montana

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Fox News host Bret Baier and his family survived a motor vehicle crash in Montana after the television anchor's SUV slid on an icy road, collided with a pickup truck and turned over in a ditch, authorities said Tuesday. Baier, the executive editor of Fox News Channel's "Special Report," said that after a weekend of skiing he was driving to the airport on icy roads outside Bozeman with his wife and their two sons on Monday when the crash happened. "I hit a big patch of ice and I could not stop our SUV," Baier said at the end of his show on Tuesday. "We slid into the intersection of a busy road and into the path of a big pickup truck, which slammed into our driver's side door. The air bags de-

ployed, the windows shattered, we careened into a ditch and flipped sideways." Baier, 48, said a passing motorist stopped and the family was able to climb out of the flipped vehicle. He said first responders got them to a hospital quickly, from which he says they left "banged up but alive." A photo provided by the Montana Highway Patrol showed Baier's vehicle on its side in a snowy ditch. Three passengers in Baier's vehicle were treated for minor injuries that he described as "a concussion, 14 stitches on a chin, a jostled tooth and a sprained ankle." One passenger in the truck was also transported to a hospital for minor injuries, said John Barnes, a spokesman for the Montana Department of Justice. □

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Lebanon rating downgraded on default risks

By **BASSEM MROUE**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A report by Moody's Investors Service that downgraded the country's long-term investment ratings reflects the urgent need for quickly forming a new government, implementing reforms and reducing budget deficit, Lebanon's finance minister and experts said Tuesday. The statement by Ali Hassan Khalil, in which he assured that Lebanon's financial and monetary conditions are stable and Beirut is capable to paying back its debt, came in a tweet after Moody's downgraded Lebanon's issuer ratings to Caa1 from B3 on Monday. The outlook was changed to stable from negative. Lebanon's economy has been under pressure for years from the war in neighboring Syria, a debt of \$85 billion equal to 150 percent of its GDP, high unemployment and little growth.



A man heads to the Lebanese central bank, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri has not been able to form a Cabinet since May's parliamentary elections because of political disagreements, and

concerns of a full-blown crisis are growing. There are concerns that the political crisis will scuttle pledges worth \$11 billion by international donors

made during the CEDRE conference in Paris in April last year and lead to economic disaster. A drop in oil prices has also affected transfers by tens of thou-

sands of Lebanese working in oil-rich gulf states to their home country.

More recently, Khalil was quoted by a local newspaper as saying that the country may restructure its debt, leading to a sell-off in Lebanese bonds. He later clarified that Lebanon is committed to paying back all maturing debt.

Moody's said its decision reflects the heightened risk that the government's response to increased liquidity and financial stability risks will include "a debt re-scheduling or other liability management exercise that may constitute a default under Moody's definition." Moody's report came a month after the agency also downgraded Lebanon's rating saying that the then "B3 rating reflects Moody's assumption that a government will be formed in the near term and will implement some fiscal consolidation." □

Italy's Salvini lashes out at Macron as 'terrible president'

By **COLLEEN BARRY**
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italy's interior minister on Tuesday called the French leader Emmanuel Macron "a terrible president," in comments that were sure to further add to tensions with Italy's trans-Alpine neighbour over immigration. Matteo Salvini, leader of the right-wing League that governs in coalition with the 5-Star Movement, said his issue was not with the French people but with "with Macron, who talks a lot and achieves little, who



In this photo taken on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, Italian Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, Matteo Salvini, opens his arms and looks up as he attends a press conference at Chigi Palace in Rome.

Associated Press

give lessons of generosity, and then rejects thousands of migrants at the Italian border."

"If Macron is so good, he can prove it with facts by letting in thousands of refugees who are in Italy and whom he promised hospitality, with other European countries," Salvini continued in a Facebook live transmission.

He said he hoped French voters would send Macron a message during the European elections in late May by showing their support for far-right leader Marine Le

Pen, with whom Salvini is allied in European politics.

The 5-Star leader, Luigi Di Maio, already sparked annoyance earlier this month by saying his populist movement was ready to help France's anti-government yellow vest protesters.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte has tried to tamp tensions down, saying that while questioning the efficiency of global politics was legitimate "this does not mean to put into discussion our historic friendship with France, nor with the French people." □



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AP Explains: Why are France and Germany renewing their vows?

By **FRANK JORDANS**
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The leaders of France and Germany signed a treaty Tuesday renewing their friendship and pledging greater cooperation between their two nations.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron signed the Aachen accord exactly 56 years after their predecessors inked the Elysee Treaty that set the tone for the two countries' relations after centuries of fierce rivalry and bloody conflict.

In the 16-page accord, Berlin and Paris declare it's time to raise their bilateral relations "to a new level and prepare for the challenges that both states and Europe face in the 21st century."

It comes at a time when the Europe Union, including its two founding members Germany and France, are struggling with rising nationalism that threatens to tear the bloc apart.

Here's a brief guide to the Aachen accord:

WHY AACHEN?

The location of the signing is heavy with symbolism: Aachen, located on Germany's western borders with Belgium and the Netherlands, was founded by the Romans, making it part of the first pan-European state.

By the Middle Ages it had become the favored residence of Charlemagne, whose Frankish empire spanned much of what is now France, Germany,



German chancellor Angela Merkel, right, and French President Emmanuel Macron, left, change documents during the signing of the new Germany-France friendship treaty at the historic Town Hall in Aachen, Germany, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Italy, Switzerland, Austria and the Benelux nations. A thousand years later, many of those countries would come together again to form the predecessor of the present-day European Union.

The city was also repeatedly occupied by France and is known there by the name Aix-la-Chapelle.

WHY ANOTHER TREATY?

The Elysee Treaty of 1963 — signed 18 years after the end of World War II by French President Charles de Gaulle and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer — helped forge a partnership that's become the engine of European integration, though one that hasn't always run

smoothly.

The new treaty was first announced by Macron in September 2017 in a sweeping speech detailing his ambitions to revive Europe — still grappling with the shock of Britain's referendum to leave the EU, and U.S. President Donald Trump's persistent attacks on America's long-time allies across the Atlantic.

In her weekly address Saturday, Merkel said she and Macron believe that "the world has changed dramatically and we want to draw on what Germany and France have already achieved together."

Macron's office said the treaty is a "major symbol" aimed at showing the Franco-German motor is still go-

ing strong despite the difficult terrain in the EU, with Britain leaving the bloc and nationalism on the rise in several member states.

WHAT'S IN THE TREATY?

While parts of the treaty deal with mundane issues along the two countries' 450-kilometer (280-mile) border, Merkel said it's also intended to help tackle global challenges such as climate change and international security.

To this end, France and Germany pledge to increase cooperation in the areas of foreign and defense policy, fighting crime and terrorism, international development and research.

The accord is vague on many of the practical de-

tails, but one point that has raised eyebrows elsewhere in Europe is the call for France to support Germany's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Merkel's spokesman, Stefan Seibert, rejected the idea that such bilateral arrangements between two countries — home to just 30 percent of the EU's population — could irritate other member states.

"Germany and France also and explicitly want the intensification of their relations in this treaty to service the project of European unification," he told reporters Monday.

WHY ARE SOME DISAPPOINTED?

The careful wording of the treaty reflects different attitudes in Paris and Berlin.

A top French official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with the French presidency's customary practice, acknowledged that France would prefer to "accelerate" changes in Europe and see the treaty as one more step toward broader reforms.

Merkel, famous for her "step-by-step" approach to politics, is wary of the impact that a perceived surrender of German sovereignty might have on European and state elections later this year.

For decades a bastion of political stability, Germany has seen the rise of a populist, far-right party in recent years that's hostile to the idea of European integration. □

Afghan security service suffers heavy toll in Taliban attack

By **AMIR SHAH RAHIM FAIEZ**

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

Dozens of people killed in a brazen Taliban attack on a military base were members of Afghanistan's intelligence agency, officials said Tuesday, in a severe blow to the government that already has lost control of nearly half of the country to the insurgents.

At least 45 people were killed and as many as 70 were wounded by a suicide bomber who drove an armored Humvee packed with explosives at the base in eastern Maidan Wardak province on Monday, the officials said. There were fears the death toll from the daytime assault could increase. The base, which also serves as a training center for pro-government militias, is run by Afghanistan's intelligence service known as the National Directorate for Security, or NDS. The NDS said its reports show 36 military personnel were killed and 58 were wounded. Though



In this Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, photo, Afghan security forces inspect the site of a Taliban attack in Maidan Shar, capital of Maidan Wardak province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan.

the agency's figures were lower than what provincial officials had reported, it was still an unprecedented casualty toll for the agency, among the best equipped and trained in Afghanistan. The agency said the suicide bomber had managed to penetrate the gate of

the base on the outskirts of Maidan Shar, the provincial capital located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Kabul, even though guards fired at the vehicle. Khawarin Sultani, a council member in the province, said a main building collapsed from the explosion,

which likely contributed to the high casualty toll.

"Most of the bodies were under the destroyed building," he said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility in a statement to the media just hours after the attack and later said its representatives met Mon-

day with U.S. representatives to discuss "ending the invasion of Afghanistan" in talks that were to continue Tuesday. They are meeting in Qatar, where the Taliban have a political office.

The timing of the attack, one of the worst Taliban assaults on Afghan forces in recent years, and the Qatar meeting that was meant to pave way for talks aimed at resolving Afghanistan's 17-year war, underscored the audacity of the insurgents in the face of stepped-up peace efforts. After the suicide bomber struck, four other attackers engaged in a shootout with Afghan troops, according to Sultani, the provincial council member. All the attackers were killed, he said.

About 150 military personnel and others were at the base at the time, he said. The pro-government militia that was hit had been highly effective in securing the province, especially two key highways linking Kabul with the provinces of Kandahar, Maidan Wardak and Bamyan. □

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Israel: Advanced missile defense system successfully tested

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said Tuesday that it has successfully tested the country's advanced missile defense system capable of defending against long-range ballistic missile threats.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toured an Israeli aerospace facility following the test and leveled a thinly veiled warning at Iran, just days after Israel struck Iranian military targets in neighboring Syria.

"Our enemies who seek to destroy us should know that Israel's clenched fist will reach all those who wish ill upon us and we will settle accounts with them," Netanyahu said.

The Defense Ministry said the successful test of the Arrow-3 interceptor is "a major milestone" in Israel's ability to defend itself "against current and future threats in the region." It comes a couple of days after Israel thwarted an Iranian missile attack. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) MLM Division plant in Be'er Ya'akov, Israel, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press



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Russia, Japan make no visible progress on territorial spat

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The leaders of Russia and Japan acknowledged Tuesday that settling a decades-long territorial dispute poses a daunting challenge but vowed to continue negotiations.

The Soviet Union took the four southernmost Kuril Islands during the final days of World War II. Japan asserts territorial rights to the islands, which it calls the Northern Territories, and the dispute has kept the countries from signing a peace treaty.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said after hosting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for several hours of talks in the Kremlin that they need to negotiate a solution to the dispute that would receive public support.

"Delicate work is needed to create conditions for reaching a mutually acceptable solution," Putin said. "A settlement that negotiators would propose must be acceptable to the people of Russia and Japan and supported by the public."



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, attend a joint news conference following their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Abe said they instructed their foreign ministers to meet again on the sidelines of a security conference in Germany next month to continue negotiations on a possible deal.

More high-level discussions will follow when Putin visits Japan in June to attend a summit of the Group of 20 summit.

"It's not easy to solve a problem left unsolved for

more than 70 years after the war ended, but we must do that," the Japanese prime minister said.

Abe has held dozens of meetings with Putin in recent years in a bid to solve the dispute, and they agreed in November to accelerate negotiations based on a 1956 Soviet proposal to return two of the islands to Japan.

Earlier this month, the Jap-

anese leader voiced hope that this year would mark a breakthrough in talks and spoke about an imminent change of the islands' status — remarks that irked the Kremlin.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Japan last week that it must recognize all four islands as part of Russia as a starting point for talks — a demand that didn't bode well for Abe's

hopes for a quick deal. The Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov also noted that recent statements from Tokyo made the talks between the two presidents even more difficult. Speaking after Tuesday's negotiations, Putin reaffirmed that Russia is interested in negotiating a peace treaty, adding that the 1956 Soviet declaration prioritized signing the document.

Abe pointed at expanding economic ties and cultural contacts between the two nations, adding that Moscow and Tokyo agree on the need to further expand links.

He noted that they agreed that a charter flight to the islands will be organized in the summer to allow Japanese to visit their ancestors' graves.

Putin argued that while trade and investment have been growing, they are still insufficient.

He invited Japanese business to invest in infrastructure projects, such as beefing up cargo transfers via the Trans-Siberian Railway and shipments through Arctic sea routes. □

China demands US drop Huawei extradition request with Canada

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Tuesday demanded the U.S. drop a request that Canada extradite a top executive of the tech giant Huawei, shifting blame to Washington in a case that has severely damaged Beijing's relations with Ottawa. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Meng Wanzhou's case was

out of the ordinary and Canada's extradition treaty with the U.S. infringed on the "safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens." Hua said China demands that the U.S. withdraw the arrest warrant against Meng and "not make a formal extradition request to the Canadian side." Hua's remarks came after more than 100 academics and former

diplomats signed a letter calling on China to release two Canadians detained in apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest. They also follow a report by the Canadian newspaper Globe and Mail that the U.S. plans to formally request Meng's extradition to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran. □

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Inmates at Panama youth prison anticipate visit from pope

By JUAN ZAMORANO

Associated Press

LAS GARZAS, Panama

(AP) — More than 100,000 young people are expected to show up in Panama City when Pope Francis visits from Jan. 23-27 for World Youth Day. At a detention center about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away there are 144 more who can't make the trip, locked up for serious crimes including murder — so the pontiff is going to them.

In an encounter expected to last a little over an hour on Friday, Francis will pray and bring a message of peace and reconciliation to the young inmates, and hear the confessions of several, including one convicted of committing a double homicide at just 16 years old.

"The pope is going to listen to them, encourage them," Panama Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa said. "They have been preparing with high hopes to be able to receive his message."

Francis nearly always makes side visits to prisons during his foreign trips, in keeping with his belief that even those on the lowest rungs of society have dignity and need ministry.

In such visits he typically preaches hope and reminds inmates that he has



A young inmates looks at another group of fellow inmates during choir practice at the Las Garzas de Pacora detention center, Panama, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019.

also sinned, and criticizes judicial failings such as prison overcrowding and inadequate rehabilitation efforts. This will be the first time he hears confessions in a prison, however.

The Las Garzas de Pacora detention center is Panama's main youth lockup, opened a year after five minors died in a fire at another prison in Panama City in 2011. Nine people including administrators and police were convicted of homicide or negligence in what was the worst trag-

edy for the country's youth prison system.

Today, administrators argue that Las Garzas de Pacora is a model facility compared with other youth prisons in the region that suffer from overcrowding. Designed to house up to 200, it's well within capacity. Inmates have painted the cellblocks in pastel colors, its green grass is well tended, and it has a school, a laundry, a dining hall and workshops where the youths can learn trades such as masonry, carpentry

and screen printing.

It's a rough population — about 65 percent of the inmates were sent there for robbery and the rest for homicide, authorities say. But members of rival gangs are said to coexist without conflict.

Internees have painted symbols of peace and the logo of the youth festival on walls and chairs in preparation for Francis' visit.

On a recent day a group rehearsed the World Youth Day hymn at the entrance to the school. One boy

played the piano, others strummed guitars and still others formed the chorus, coached by volunteers ahead of a planned performance for the pontiff.

Emma Alba de Tejada, national director of interdisciplinary studies in youth prisons, acknowledged that some of the young inmates aren't interested in participating in the pope's visit. But others are excited, she said. "Just thinking that the pope is coming to visit has for them been a total transformation," she said. "They are dressing up the facility. They have painted it, they have gotten involved, they are singing."

One boy, who was left disabled after being shot in the leg, was working on an acrylic painting of Panamanian folkloric images, one of several gifts planned for Francis along with a footrest and a staff. He said he first learned about the pope's visit from television and was looking forward to meeting him.

"For me it will be important to have an encounter, to receive the blessing," said the inmate, who was convicted of murder and cannot be identified due to Panamanian law governing child protection. "I would tell him to give me another chance." □

Associated Press

Rio police arrest 5 from militia gang that 'terrorized'

By ANNA JEAN KAISER

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Rio de Janeiro civil police arrested five leaders of a powerful militia gang, including an active-duty police major, during an operation in the city's West Zone on Tuesday morning.

Public prosecutors said in a news conference that they seized documents that map out systematic extortion of residents and businesses through fines for their "services," and an illicit real estate scheme where militia occupied and sold land illegally. The militia members were also under investigation for bribing state agents, han-



Laerte Silva de Lima, member of a militia gang, is detained by the police in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

dling stolen cargo and operating a loan-shark ring, among other things. Eight other militia members have

been issued arrest warrants but were not found during the operation.

"This criminal organization

has terrorized the population," said Fabio Barucke, a civil police officer who took part in the investigation.

Militia groups control vast areas of Rio de Janeiro's periphery. Many members are active or retired police, military and firefighters and extort residents for basic services like electricity, cable television and transportation. Since the 1990s, militia groups have grown to be among the most powerful and feared criminal organizations in Rio.

Militia members often have connections to politicians in cities and the legislature of Rio de Janeiro state. Soon after the operation, local news outlets reported

that President Jair Bolsonaro's son, Senator-elect Flavio Bolsonaro, had given public service awards to two of the alleged militia members, one who was arrested and another with an outstanding warrant.

In a statement, he said he always acted in defense of security forces and that he's given hundreds of awards. Flavio Bolsonaro also employed the mother of one of the wanted militia members in his cabinet when he was a state deputy, according to reports. The mother was one of several employees flagged by financial regulators for irregular payments in his cabinet. □

LOCAL



Meet our new columnist

ORANJESTAD — Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Aruba Today recently met this smart, motivated young lady during an interview and the mutual good energy that came out of that resulted in a new column, written by Louedska, called Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday, starting next week January 31st. Let us introduce her!

Louedska's hobbies include reading, traveling and yoga. "I am passionate about learning new things, which will help me grow in my personal and professional life. There are many topics that I am very interested in, such as, sociology, psychology, and philosophy," she says. While attending the University of Aruba, she got the unique opportunity to take part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs.

Media & Society

Louedska: "I had to choose five courses to follow during the spring semester. The courses that

I decided to choose were courses that fall into my area of interests, such as Sociology, Philosophy, English Literature, Psychology and Journalism. The course that is part of the category journalism, is called Media and Society. It will be exploring the concepts of the media industry, operation and history. The themes that will be discussed throughout the course of Media and Society are agency, culture, diversity, industry and literacy."

Learning & Growing

An important life philosophy that she always tries to remember is "I'm not everything I want to be, but I'm more than I was, and I'm still learning," a quote by Charlotte Eriksson. "This is very important to me, not just in my professional life but in my personal life as well. I am always learning and growing in many ways that I would have never imagined before. A good example is, by doing this exchange abroad and writing for Aruba Today." Louedska likes the concepts of familiarity and comfortability. Thus, these opportunities will surely help her get out of her comfort zone and grow. In addition, this experience might also help her challenge the notions of comfortability and familiarity that she has and embrace change instead. "Join me in these upcoming four months, as I share with you



my journey and experiences as an exchange student abroad."

Aruba Today takes an honor in motivating our young generation and open up to offer them new opportunities and at the same time learn ourselves from their fresh look at life. Besides our fantastic column Creative Islander by student Thais Franken we now have Louedska Maduro, student of the University of Aruba, to welcome as our new columnist! Welcome to the Aruba Today club Louedska! □



Aruba Drone Racing FPV Aruba presents: “Caribbean Heat 2019”



ORANJESTAD — Drone racing is a new sport for young and old who love the adrenaline rush of high speed racing action. Drone pilots use video goggles to get a first person view/live video feed from their drones that travel over 120 km/h. A typical race consists out of heats with 4 pilots racing head to head on a 3 dimensional race track with gates, flags, dive gates, and more. Because drones are so maneuverable watching them race is a real show with high speed finishes, crashes and collisions.

Drone racing has taken over the world by storm and can even be seen on big sports channels such as ESPN, EURO SPORT, FOX SPORTS & more. Big prize money is also part of this sport and top competing pilots are making over 100k a year with prize money alone on leagues such as DRL. One of the founders of “FPV (First Person View) Aruba”, Aruban son of the soil “Vince Irie”, is a professional racer and has travelled to over 15 countries last year to compete solo and as a team, in amazing events such as DRL (Eurosport), DCL and Tech drone league Race Turkey. He won gold in more than 10 races in 2018, silver and bronze in many and is well-known in the drone racing world.



Vince Irie and FPV Aruba, the organizers of the 3rd event, which will take place this Saturday the 26th at the re-opened Aruba Vacation Park (ex Aruba Water Park) in Sta. Cruz, want to make this experience an even bigger one with huge audiences following the action on our 4-way split screens and at the race track listening to commentators while drones roar through the air. The event will start at 9 o'clock in the morning and will be filmed and posted on YouTube channels and transmitted by our local TV-station. The culmination point is reached at about 3 in the afternoon during the finals.

A typical race with practice rounds, qualifiers, double eliminations and finals usually engages one complete day, depending on the number of competing pilots. FPV Aruba will be hosting pilots from Aruba, Curaçao, Trinidad & the Netherlands, which guarantee a full action-packed day of racing.

FPV Aruba offers an impressive prize pool for the competing pilots, rendering the event an alluring status. After the event everyone is invited to meet the pilots, take a dive in the pool, check out the restaurant while listening to some live music. □



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For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Karen Gloede from Texas. She wrote: Aruba to me is never ending sunsets! ☐





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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassador. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are the lovely couple Constantin Carmine and Renée Carmine-Jones from USA.

This lovely couple stated that they got engaged back in 1999, while vacationing on Aruba. They became so in love with the island that

they decided to get married on Divi Beach in 2001. They also stated that they love Aruba's year-round sunny weather, the nice sandy beaches, climbing the Hooiberg to enjoy the spectacular view, unique sunsets on the beach, and most of all their local friends and the Divi staff that became their extended family!

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



Tickle your Taste Buds with Tierra del Sol



NOORD — There is a place on the Northern part of the island that makes up for your perfect dream night. The location: the island's rugged north coast and blue ocean forming your panoramic from Tierra del Sol's restaurant, either from the poolside outdoor terrace or from the elegant indoor restaurant. The offering: From breakfast to dinner excellent cuisine, friendly service, and a gorgeous setting, but now even more special with the NEW 'All You Can Taste' concept – on from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6PM – 10PM.



Tune in for an experience that will give dining another perspective. We are not talking about the standard 3-course menu, but about a journey through taste-land. The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu. Fresh Oysters, Tuna Crab Duo, Bruchetta Caprese, Portobello Mushroom, Smoked Beef Tataki or Chicken Curry Waldorf Salad are only some of the welcoming dishes. For the main courses you can decide for Skirt Steak, Duck Venison Duo or

Pumpkin Risotto among others and to top it off with a sweet surrender a Duo of Quesillo & Brownie, Melon Martini or Cheesecake are one of the choices. This all for a special price and including a glass of sangria. Indulge into this culinary discovery at the most romantic scenery of our One Happy Island. □

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Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 23 Beach Bar

- Looking for great service, inventive drinks, and some of the most beautiful scenery around? Than this is the place to be. Beach Bar welcomes you daily for the after-work drink or your morning ocean wake up.
- From 10:00 AM till 8:00 PM
- Next to the Tamarijn Aruba All-Inclusive
- Facebook Divi Resorts



Saturday 26 Caribbean Heat - Drone Races

- Experience a full day of professional drone races with Aruban professional drone racer Vince Irie and 16 pilots from Aruba, Curaçao and Trinidad & Tobago. They will be competing for the title of Best Caribbean Drone Racer at the Aruba Waterpark! With an awesome afterparty, happy hour and live music after the races are done. Cash prizes for the racers so the battle will be heated.
- From 9:00 AM till 9:00 PM
- Aruba Waterpark, Hooiberg
- Facebook Renaissance Aruba Waterpark



Thursday 24 Casa del Mar Carnival Bingo

- Enjoy a fun, prized carnival theme bingo at Casa Del Mar.
- From 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM
- Casa del Mar Poolside
- Facebook Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba



Sunday 27 Balloon Parade

- Head up to San Nicolas and enjoy the children's Balloon Parade. A total of 6 groups will be showing off their balloon creations.
- From 1:00 PM till 6:00 PM
- San Nicolas
- Facebook Clickcarnaval.com



Friday 25 Rancho Walking Tour

- In commemoration of national hero Gilberto François "Betico" Croes. Foundation Rancho will organize a special Rancho Walking Tour and Photo EXPO where you will get to know all about the history and monuments of one of the oldest neighborhood of Aruba. The tour will take around 2 hours. See the many mural-arts in Rancho and get in contact with the locals.
- From 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM
- Rancho Activity Center, Koningstraat 38, Oranjestad
- Facebook Stichting Rancho



Monday 28 Live Entertainment at Renaissance Market Place

- Be Enlightened By Our Musical Entertainment While Going Beyond The Usual at Renaissance Marketplace
- Starts at 7:00 PM
- Renaissance Mall & MarketPlace
- Facebook Renaissance Mall & MarketPlace

Tuesday 29 The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol

- All you can taste night at The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol. Experience as many 'Tapas' size items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu.
- From 6:00 PM till 10:00 PM
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SPORTS



Rivera 1st unanimous HOF pick; Doc, Edgar, Mussina also in

By **JAKE SEINER**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mariano Rivera has become baseball's first unanimous Hall of Fame selection, elected Tuesday along with Roy Halladay, Edgar Martinez and Mike Mussina.

Rivera received all 425 votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America announced. The quartet will be enshrined in Cooperstown along with Today's Game Era Committee selections Harold Baines and Lee Smith on July 21. Ken Griffey Jr. held the mark for top percentage at 99.32 when he was on 437 of 440 ballots two years ago.

Rivera is baseball's career saves leader with 652. With a steady demeanor and a fearsome cut fastball, he won five World Series over 19 seasons with the New York Yankees. He was always at his best in October, getting 42 saves with a 0.70 ERA over 16 postseasons, including 11 saves in the World Series.

Halladay, an ace with the Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies, got 85.4 percent and will be the first posthumous inductee since Deacon White in 2013 and Ron Santo in 2012. Halladay died in November 2017 at 40 years old when an airplane he was flying crashed into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida.

Continued on Page 22

IMPERFECT 10

Bulls snap 10-game losing streak, beat Cavaliers 104-88

Chicago Bulls' Zach LaVine (8) drives to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Collin Sexton (2) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, in Cleveland.

Associated Press
Page 21





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Coyle scores, Wild beat Golden Knights 4-2

By The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Charlie Coyle scored his second game-winning goal of the season with 5:31 remaining to lift the Minnesota Wild past the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 on Monday.

With the win, the Wild moved past Colorado and Vancouver into the top wild-card slot in the Western Conference. Minnesota takes on Colorado on Wednesday, the final game before the All-Star break for both teams.

With the puck loose in front of the net, Jared Spurgeon sent a perfect pass to Coyle, who beat Vegas goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury with a high shot that put the Wild in front.

Marcos Foligno, Eric Staal and Mikko Koivu also scored for the Wild. Devan Dubnyk made 30 saves and has stopped 64 of 67 shots in his last three games.

Alex Tuch and Max Pacioretty scored for the Golden Knights.

Fleury made 18 saves for Vegas.

The loss kept Vegas in third place in the Pacific Division, behind first-place Calgary and San Jose.

KINGS 4, BLUES 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul LaDue scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period, and Los Angeles rallied past St. Louis.

Jonathan Quick stopped 33 shots in his 302nd NHL victory, which is fourth-best among U.S.-born goaltenders.

Anze Kopitar and Tyler Toffoli each had a goal and an assist, while Brendan Leipsic had two assists. Drew Doughty also scored for Los Angeles, which has

won three of its last five.

Mackenzie MacEachern, Oskar Sundqvist and Ryan O'Reilly scored for St. Louis. Jordan Binnington made 25 saves.

PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 1

DENVER (AP) — Pekka Rinne stopped a penalty shot among his 35 saves and Nashville knocked off Colorado as Peter Laviolette captured win No. 600 of his NHL coaching career. Nick Bonino and Viktor Arvidsson scored 1:34 apart in the second period, while Roman Josi added another and Ryan Ellis contributed a late empty-netter from deep in his zone. The Predators beat their Central Division rivals for a 12th time over the last 13 regular-season meetings.

Alexander Kerfoot had the lone goal for the Avalanche, who have dropped five of seven.

PANTHERS 6, SHARKS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Frank Vatrano had a goal and three assists for a career-high four points to lift Florida over San Jose.

Vincent Trocheck, Keith Yandle and Nick Bjugstad each had a power-play goal for the Panthers. Mike Matheson and Aaron Ekblad also scored, Roberto Luongo stopped 27 shots and Aleksander Barkov added three assists.

The Panthers have won three straight after losing their previous seven games.

Timo Meier and Logan Couture scored for the Sharks. Martin Jones allowed five goals on 21 shots before being replaced by Aaron Dell with 12:38 left in the third period. Dell made eight saves. □



Minnesota Wild goaltender Devan Dubnyk (40) makes a save against the Vegas Golden Knights during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, in Las Vegas.

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Thompson hits first 10 from 3 as Warriors rout L.A.

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Klay Thompson tied an NBA record by making his first 10 attempts from 3-point range, scoring 44 points as the Golden State Warriors beat the short-handed Los Angeles Lakers 130-111 on Monday night to match a season high with their eighth consecutive victory. Thompson finished 10 of 11 from beyond the arc and the two-time defending champions won their seventh straight road game. The star guard had 23 points in the third quarter, connecting on seven 3s as the Warriors stretched their lead to 36 points. He finally missed from deep late in the period.

Kevin Durant added 20 points and Stephen Curry had 11 points and 12 assists for Golden State.

Ivica Zubac led Los Angeles with 18 points. The Lakers were without their primary playmakers in LeBron James, Lonzo Ball and Rajon Rondo. They fell to 5-9 without James, whose left groin strain has forced him out for the longest stretch of his 16-year career.

76ERS 121, ROCKETS 93

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid had 32 points and 14 rebounds to lead Philadelphia past fellow MVP contender James Harden and Houston.

Harden, selected Western Conference player of the week earlier in the day, finished with 37 points — giving him 20 straight games with at least 30.

Embiid's 24 first-half points helped Philadelphia to a 65-50 halftime lead, and he punctuated an entertaining opening 24 minutes by pinning Harden's layup attempt with 7.5 seconds left for a crowd-pleasing block. The duo had to be sepa-



Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson reacts after making a 3-point basket against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

rated with 38.7 seconds left in the half, with each being issued a technical, after Harden took exception to Embiid's foul on him.

The 76ers broke the game open in a dominant third quarter as they outscored Houston 29-13 to take a 94-63 advantage into the fourth.

CELTICS 107, HEAT 99

BOSTON (AP) — Kyrie Irving had 26 points and 10 assists, Al Horford added 16 points and 12 rebounds and Boston beat Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Irving has had 20 or more points and 10 or more assists in 11 games, the first Celtics player to accomplish the feat since Hall of Famer Larry Bird, who also had 11 in 1986-87.

Jayson Tatum added 19 points and Marcus Morris 17 for the Celtics, who won their ninth straight at home and improved to 18-5 at TD Garden. Derrick Jones Jr. and Dion Waiters led the

Heat with 18 points apiece.

BUCKS 116, MAVERICKS 106

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points and 15 rebounds, and Milwaukee beat Dallas. Eric Bledsoe had 21 points and Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 for the Bucks, who have won five straight and 12 of their last 14 to improve to 34-12 overall. Luka Doncic had 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for Dallas, which has lost four in a row. Jalen Brunson had 16 points.

After trailing at the half, the Bucks built a double-digit lead in the third quarter and led 92-84 heading to the fourth.

TRAIL BLAZERS 109, JAZZ 104

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 26 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 17 in the third quarter to lift Portland past Utah.

In a matchup between two of the NBA's hottest teams, the Blazers made 50 percent of their shots and piled

up 30 assists to snap Utah's six-game winning streak.

Nurkic finished with 22 points, nine rebounds, seven assists and six blocks. CJ McCollum added 14 points for Portland, which has won seven of nine.

Donovan Mitchell continued his high-scoring streak with 36 points for Utah. Jae Crowder scored 15 while Rudy Gobert had 10 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks.

PELICANS 105, GRIZZLIES 85

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jrue Holiday and Nikola Mirotic scored 21 points, Jahlil Okafor and Julius Randle had 20, and balanced New Orleans beat Memphis without injured star Anthony Davis.

Okafor set a season high for points and added 10 rebounds filling in for Davis. Randle had 12 rebounds and Holiday grabbed 11 as New Orleans out-rebounded the Grizzlies 50-35. It was the Pelicans' first game

since announcing Davis would miss 1-2 weeks with a left index finger sprain.

Marc Gasol led the Grizzlies with 22 points, while Mike Conley added 20 and eight assists for Memphis, which lost its sixth straight and 12th in the last 13.

NETS 123, KINGS 94

NEW YORK (AP) — D'Angelo Russell had 31 points and eight assists, and surging Brooklyn won its fourth straight game by running away from Sacramento in the second half.

Russell, announced as the Eastern Conference player of the week shortly before the game, made seven 3-pointers. He hit all four 3-point attempts and was 5 for 6 overall in the third quarter, fueling a 22-4 spurt that launched the Nets into the lead for good.

Joe Harris added 19 points and rookie Rodions Kurucs had 16 for the Nets, who won for the 17th time in 22 games.

Reserve guard Bogdan Bogdanovic had 22 points and 11 assists for the Kings, but starters Buddy Hield and De'Aaron Fox both had quiet games.

THUNDER 127, KNICKS 109

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul George scored 31 points and Russell Westbrook had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as Oklahoma City beat New York.

George and Westbrook both sat out the fourth quarter. Dennis Schroder added 17 points for the Thunder while both Jerami Grant and Abdel Nader each had 16.

The Knicks have lost six in a row and 14 of 15. They have dropped nine straight at Madison Square Garden. Tim Hardaway Jr. led the Knicks with 23 points. Allonzo Trier had 16 and Emmanuel Mudiay scored 14. □

Tsitsipas reaches 1st Slam semi, plugs YouTube; Collins wins

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — A post-millennial through and through, Stefanos Tsitsipas sounded as excited about doubling his YouTube channel's followers to more than 30,000 within a few hours — "Oh, my God. Really?!" — as he was about becoming the youngest Grand Slam semi-finalist since 2007.

Ah, to be 20, emerging as possibly the Next Big Thing in tennis and getting the opportunity to promote your travel vlogs.

"Guys," he urged folks watching the Australian Open on Tuesday in person or on TV, "if you haven't subscribed, please subscribe."

Lest anyone get the idea that Tsitsipas' stunning victory over Roger Federer at Melbourne Park was a fluke, he followed it up by beating No. 22-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) to become the first player from Greece to reach the final four at a major tournament.

"I knew that win against Federer was important, played a huge role in my image — like, who I am," said Tsitsipas, who eliminated the two-time defending champion in the fourth round Sunday. "But I knew that the biggest challenge

was today's match, that I can prove myself once again."

Sure did.

Next for Tsitsipas will be 17-time major champion Rafael Nadal, who stopped the career-best run of another up-and-coming member of the sport's new generation, 21-year-old American Frances Tiafoe, by dominating him 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Nadal saved the only two break points he faced and broke Tiafoe the first time he served in each set.

In women's action, unseeded 25-year-old Danielle Collins of the U.S. reached her first Slam semifinal with a 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia. Collins was an NCAA champion at the University of Virginia who began this tournament with an 0-5 record at majors and now has strung together five victories in a row, including over 2016 champion Angelique Kerber.

Collins put aside a poor start Tuesday, including dropping a 16-minute, 28-point, 11-deuce second game to completely dominate the final set, which she opened by grabbing 20 of 23 points. She'll now face two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, who is back in the semis at a major for the first time since she was stabbed during an attack



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas celebrates after defeating Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

at her home in December 2016.

"I didn't really imagine being back," a teary Kvitova said after defeating No. 15 Ash Barty of Australia 6-1, 6-4.

"I'm calling it my 'second career,'" Kvitova said. "So it's the first semifinal of the 'second career.'"

She hadn't been this far at any Slam since Wimbledon in 2014, and at Melbourne since 2012.

Cheered on by a loud, flag-waving contingent of Greek fans inside and outside Rod Laver Arena, Tsitsipas displayed his varied toolbox, producing 22 aces, 30 more winners than unforced errors (68-38) and a nose for getting to the net.

It was a terrific encore to what he did against his idol, the 37-year-old Federer, a

result that left Tsitsipas unable to sleep.

Tsitsipas was down a break in the first and third sets before turning both around against Bautista Agut, whose own thrill-ride to the quarterfinals included victories over Andy Murray, a three-time major champion, and Marin Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion and the runner-up to Federer at Melbourne Park a year ago.

"Well, he's a good player, no? He's very complete. He has a good forehand and backhand. He's serving well," Bautista Agut said about Tsitsipas. "I think he knows the game. He knows how to play."

That's why his peers voted him the 2018 Most Improved Player.

And why he's already in the Top 20, seeded 14th in

Australia.

Tsitsipas recently was asked what his goal was for this season. The reply: reaching the semifinals at a major. Well, we're all of three weeks into 2019 and that box is checked.

So is he satisfied?

"That's like the starting point to go deeper," Tsitsipas replied. "That's like the minimum, I would call it."

No man as young as Tsitsipas had been this far at any Grand Slam tournament since Novak Djokovic at the 2007 U.S. Open or at the Australian Open since Andy Roddick in 2003.

"It all feels like a fairy tale, almost. I'm just living the dream, living what I've been working hard for," said Tsitsipas, who dropped his racket, fell on his back and covered his face with his hands at match's end. □

Dallas Wings star Liz Cambage asks to be traded

By **DOUG FEINBERG**

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Liz Cambage is looking to play elsewhere next season.

"Liz Cambage has communicated through her representation a desire to play elsewhere in the WNBA during the 2019 season," Dallas Wings president and CEO Greg Bibb said in a statement Tuesday. "While Liz is currently under contract with the Dallas Wings, we will work to resolve this issue while

keeping the interest of our organization the priority."

The 27-year-old Cambage finished second behind Breanna Stewart in WNBA MVP balloting this past year. She set the league single-game scoring record last season when she had 53 points against New York. She averaged 23 points and 9.7 rebounds last year.

The 6-foot-8 Australian star was the No. 2 pick in the 2011 draft.

She played that season

and in 2013 for the Tulsa Shock but sat out in 2012 and again from 2014-2017. The franchise moved to Dallas in 2016. Cambage returned to the WNBA last season with Dallas and really hit it off with Wings coach Fred Williams.

Cambage took it hard when Williams was fired a few weeks before the end of the season.

Her former coach signed on as an assistant with the Los Angeles Sparks on Tuesday. □



In this May 8, 2018, file photo, Dallas Wings' Liz Cambage, left, drives against Connecticut Sun's Brionna Jones during a preseason WNBA basketball game in Uncasville, Conn.

Associated Press

Hof Pick

Continued from Page 18

Martinez was a .312 hitter over 18 seasons with Seattle. He got 85.4 percent in his 10th and final try on the writers' ballot. He and Baines will join 2014 inductee Frank Thomas as the only Hall of Famers to play the majority of their games at designated hitter. David Ortiz will be eligible in 2022. Mussina was a steady right-hander for the Yankees and Baltimore Orioles who went 270-153 with 2,813 strikeouts over 18 seasons. He received 76.7 percent, getting seven more votes than the 319 required for election.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens made gains but again fell short in their seventh times on the ballot. Bonds got 59.1 percent and Clemens 59.5.

Rivera grew up in Panama the son of a fisherman. He signed with New York in 1990, debuted in the majors as a 25-year-old in 1995 and a year later emerged as one of the game's best relievers.

Along with a core including Derek Jeter, Andy Pettitte and Jorge Posada, Rivera helped the Yankees win four World Series from 1996-2000 and another in 2009.

"Hall of Fame teammate.

Hall of Fame person," Jeter said in a statement.

The Yankees didn't even wait until his final game to retire his No. 42 — he was the last player in the major leagues to wear that number, grandfathered to him when No. 42 was retired in honor of Jackie Robinson in 1997.

"Wearing No. 42, representing Jackie Robinson, I assume he was the first No. 42 elected," Rivera said. "To be the last No. 42 elected to the Hall of Fame, and unanimously, is amazing."

Though his music taste skews more Christian rock than heavy metal, Rivera toed the Yankee Stadium rubber to Metallica's "Enter Sandman" for much of his career. "The Sandman" became synonymous with the song's foreboding guitar riff, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Famers performed it live at Yankee Stadium in 2013 before one of Rivera's final home games.

Bill Ballou of The Telegram & Gazette in Worcester, Massachusetts, wrote in November that because he didn't plan to vote for Rivera, he wouldn't submit a ballot. Ballou announced Tuesday he had changed his mind and sent a ballot that included Rivera.

Rivera and Smith will be



In this Sept. 26, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera acknowledges the crowd's standing ovation after coming off the mound in the ninth inning of his final appearance in a baseball game, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

the seventh and eighth relievers in the Hall, joining Hoyt Wilhelm (1985), Rollie Fingers (1992), Dennis Eckersley (2004), Bruce Sutter (2006), Rich Gossage (2008) and Trevor Hoffman (2018). Halladay won two Cy Young Awards, one each with Toronto and Philadelphia, before ending his career in 2013 at 36 years old due to back injuries.

The right-hander was a first-round draft pick by Toronto in 1995, debuted in the majors in 1998 and struggled

terribly until being demoted to the minor leagues in 2001.

With the help of sports psychologist Harvey Dorfman, Halladay reinvented himself and became an All-Star in 2002, then won 22 games and an AL Cy Young in 2003.

Halladay's best season came in 2010, his first following a blockbuster trade to Philadelphia. Halladay pitched a perfect game against the Florida Marlins in May, then delivered a

no-hitter against Cincinnati in the opener of the NL Division Series.

It was just the second no-hitter in postseason history after the Yankees' Don Larsen pitched a perfect game against Brooklyn in the 1956 World Series.

In an era marked by pitch counts and early hooks, Halladay was a workhorse. Since 2000, Halladay's 65 complete games are by far the most in the majors — Liván Hernández is second at 39. □

Tim Howard says this MLS season will be his last

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Colorado Rapids and former U.S. national team goalkeeper Tim Howard says this season will be his last in Major League Soccer.

Howard made the announcement on social media Tuesday, a day after the Rapids reported to training camp.

"I'm greatly looking forward to kicking off the 2019 MLS season, as it will be my LAST. There will be plenty of time for sentiment later. For now, I am going to enjoy every minute. And as I've always done, compete hard and help lead the Rapids with the sole purpose of winning," he posted to Twitter. Over the course of his 21-



This June 1, 2018, file photo shows Colorado Rapids goalkeeper Tim Howard deflecting a shot by the Vancouver Whitecaps during the first half of an MLS soccer match, in Commerce City, Colo.

Associated Press

year professional career, the 39-year-old spent 13 seasons in the English Premier League with Manchester United and Everton. He

was Premier League Goalkeeper of the Year in 2004 while with Manchester United.

In addition to the Rapids,

Howard also played with the MetroStars (1998-2003) in MLS.

Howard's announcement formally confirms the speculation that surrounded Howard last season.

Howard made 121 appearances with the national team, starting for the United States at the World Cup in South Africa in 2010 and again in Brazil in 2014. He was the backup to Kasey Keller for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

His most memorable game in soccer's most prestigious tournament came in Brazil, when he made a tournament-record 15 saves in a loss to Belgium in the round of 16.

Howard holds U.S. men's national team records for

most appearances and wins, with 62. He also had 42 shutouts. He was honored as CONCACAF Goalkeeper of the Year three times. Howard has made 75 appearances with the Rapids since joining the team in 2016, compiling 257 saves. "It seemed like the right time," he said about his retirement. "I kind of always had my sights set on this, and there's other things I want to do. For a lot of those reasons I wanted to make sure this would be the end. In terms of timing it makes a lot of sense to do this now before the start of the season and kind of get that out of the way so it's not a distraction. That's what's most important to me." □

Pats', Rams' titles not tarnished by bad officiating

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

Yes, the Los Angeles Rams got away with a flagrant foul (or two) by cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman that allowed them to sneak out of New Orleans with the NFC championship, right past the highway sign on the causeway over Lake Pontchartrain reading, "WE WERE ROBBED."

Yes, the Patriots won in Kansas City thanks to four critical calls going New England's way in the fourth quarter, three of which were iffy: a replay reversal of Julian Edelman's muffed punt, a phantom roughing-the-passer call on Chris Jones and Chris Hogan's drive-sustaining one-handed catch with a little help from the ground.

The fourth flag was indisputable: Dee Ford lined up in the neutral zone, negating rookie cornerback Charvarius Ward's game-clinching interception with 55 seconds left and Kansas City ahead 28-24.

"I thought the game was over," Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen said. "And it wasn't."

Just like the Saints did when Tommylee Lewis blatantly was interfered with inside the Los Angeles 5-yard line by Robey-Coleman, whose helmet-to-helmet hit didn't draw the flag but will surely result in a hefty fine.



Associated Press

"I thought it was a flag for that split second," acknowledged Robey-Coleman, who was as surprised as everyone else when two officials near the play ruled it an incomplete pass on third down with 1:45 remaining in regulation and the game tied at 20.

"I knew if that had been a flag, they probably would have scored on the next play," Robey-Coleman said. The call kept the Rams close as New Orleans settled for a field goal on the next play. Greg Zuerlein

tied it in regulation with a 48-yarder and won it in overtime with a 57-yarder, two field goals that likely never would have happened had Robey-Coleman been flagged for clobbering Lewis well before the ball arrived.

On Monday, Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas implored NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to undo the outcome of the game, citing an NFL rule that allows for "the reversal of a game's result or the rescheduling of a game, ei-

ther from the beginning or from the point at which the extraordinary occurred."

The league has never invoked the rule to reverse a game's outcome.

The George Halas and Lamar Hunt Trophies may be smudged amid the backlash over the officiating gaffes, but they aren't entirely tarnished because strategy and execution had as much to do with the outcomes of these overtime thrillers as the yellow flags that were or weren't thrown.

The Rams (15-3) roared back from a pair of double-digit deficits to beat the Saints 26-23 in overtime because they stuck with the plan and didn't panic after falling behind 13-0 in the first quarter and 20-10 in the third quarter.

After managing just 5 yards in the first quarter when nothing went right, the Rams righted themselves thanks to a fake punt and cut New Orleans' lead to 13-10 at halftime.

"Our team demonstrated great mental toughness," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "It was a tough start, but I thought the way (quarterback Jared Goff) played and handled the noise was outstanding."

The Rams outscored the Saints 16-3 down the stretch. The Patriots (13-5) overcame a 24-point fourth-quarter outburst fueled by Patrick Mahomes to beat the Chiefs 37-31 in overtime because Tom Brady was hardly touched, aside from Jones' shoulder swipe that the officials thought hit him in the facemask. New England's much-maligned offensive line didn't allow a single sack to the Chiefs, whose 52 sacks during the regular season were tied with the Steelers for the league lead and who pummeled Andrew Luck a week earlier, sacking him three times. □

NFL to play 4 games in London next season, 1 in Mexico City

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL will play four games in London next season but did not say which would be at Tottenham's delayed new stadium and which would be at Wembley. The league also said Monday one game will be in Mexico City — Kansas City vs. the Los Angeles Chargers at Azteca Stadium, which hosted games in 2016 and 2017. The Rams and Kansas City were to have played there Nov. 19 but the game was moved to Los Angeles because of poor field

conditions. In London, the NFC champion Los Angeles Rams will play Cincinnati. The other games are Houston-Jacksonville, Carolina-Tampa Bay and Chicago-Oakland. Jacksonville is owned by Shahid Khan, who also owns the Premier League club Fulham.

Two games will be at Wembley and two at Tottenham's new stadium, which was to have opened last summer but faced construction delays. The stadium's opening has been delayed six times. A game

between Oakland and Seattle was to have been at Tottenham last Oct. 14 but was moved to Wembley.

The NFL has played annually in London since 2007 — 21 games at Wembley, three at Twickenham.

Major League Baseball plays its first games in London on June 29-30, when the World Series champion Boston Red Sox host the New York Yankees in a two-game series at London's Olympic Stadium.

The NBA played two games at London's O2 Arena in



Los Angeles Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman (23) celebrates in the locker room after overtime of the NFL football NFC championship game, against the New Orleans Saints, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

2011 and has had one there each January since 2013. The NHL played two

regular-season games at O2 Arena in September 2007. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

As strong as your house might be, if the foundation of the structure is collapsing the dwelling will not last long. A strong foundation supports a strong building. The lower back is truly the foundation of our body's structure and an agonizing lower back means your body cannot stand upright. In our clinic we have seen patients with excruciating lower back transported to us in the back of station wagons, SUVs, and hatchbacks.

The parts of the lower back include the bony structure of your spine and pelvis; areas of motion which are the joints of soft pads-discs, the supportive structures that initiate motion are the muscles, ligaments which are the straps that hold bone to bone and the electrical system supplied by the nerves. As the center of the body, dancers and other athletes realize that all sustainable movement in your body originates in your body's core or center, which includes the lower back.

Lower back pain can be a combination of the parts of the back. Injuries are caused either by one major trauma or by many minor traumas that occur over time. If there is an energy imbalance, such as a rotated pelvis, a short leg or an increased or decreased curve in the low back, there will be areas of heightened tension that will be more vulnerable to irritation and injury. When an injury takes place, there will usually be a muscle spasm and swelling indicating

inflammation of the discs or nerves. This is why it is common to feel multiple types of pain when injured. Muscles cause dull aches while nerves cause sharp pains.

Low back pain is the most prevalent cause of disability in people under age forty five. If you have any of the following symptoms, you need medical attention. Pain is worse when you cough or sneeze; pain or numbness travels down one or both legs; pain awakens you from sleep; you are finding it difficult to or loose control of urine or bowel movement.

There are several symptoms of lower back problems. Nearly all lower back problems present with numbness, weakness, sciatica pain, stiffness, or tightness. When nerve impulses aren't traveling properly from the skin to the brain you will feel numbness. Weakness happens when signals don't travel properly from the brain to the muscles or from problems in the muscles themselves. I see many patients suffering from Type II diabetes with these leg problems.

Patients who awaken early in the morning with stiffness are likely to be suffering from an inflammatory condition. Since there could be a more serious problem, and a physician should rule out infection and severe psychological problems.

Tightness in the back, neck, arms and legs is most often due to changes in the muscles. Most neck and back problems are a result of tight, achy muscles brought on by years of bad posture. Additionally, joint stiffness and pain, could mean you are at risk for degenerative osteoarthritis. Poor posture and a sedentary lifestyle have shown to increase the risk of the condition in later years.

Sciatica refers to pain that begins in the hip and buttocks and continues all the way down the leg. This pain is also in the lower back. The term "sciatica" indicates that the sciatic nerve, which travels from the lower back into the leg, is where this pain is moving. While we treat this condition successfully with acupuncture I check the health of the prostate in male patients and screen women in child bearing ages for urinary tract or vaginal infections.

In the postmenopausal female low back pain, difficulty initiating stool or urination, urinary incontinence, and pelvic pain or pressure is usually from a weakening of the supporting structures

of the vagina and uterus. During the childbearing years the female hormones have continuously stimulated the sexual organs. Without a replacement physical stimulation, the muscles and ligaments weaken and are no longer able to hold the organs in place. Many times I get a complaint from a menopausal woman that "something" from the vagina is protruding rather than any pain or pressure feelings. A series of ten to fifteen acupuncture treatment are usually all that is needed for these women to walk normally again.

In the many years that we have provided primary care to our community, every new case of lower back pain has come to us with a diagnosis from an allopathic doctor that there is a "disk problem". Either the disk is herniated, which would mean that a rupture in the wall of a disk, between two vertebrae or because nerves are being "pinched". Of course, pain medication is provided along with trite advice to "take some time off to relax".

It is important to track down the source of your lower back problems if your pain is spontaneous or regularly recurring. My mother, Nora, suffered for years from low back problems; directly related to a somewhat serious automobile accident in the years before belt restraints and airbags. At her eightieth birthday she walked effortlessly and confidently to her birthday celebration and honored me with her first of many dances. A living testament that lower back pain needs not be a life sentence.

Get The Point! Anne Frank, the seventeen-year-old Dutch girl caught hiding from the Nazis said "I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death... I think... peace and tranquility will return again". She was not writing about the same foundation, but her words ring true for what you are going through suffering from back pain. The negative effects of back pain on family relationships, your job, loss of self esteem, guilt, fear, and anger are very real. Accepting the sentencing that the structure of your back has crumbled and your choices are to "live with it, or get an operation" is ridiculous. There are more options. Call to make an appointment if you are ready to rebuild your foundation for some peace and tranquility. □

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Millennial Money: This winter, your credit should freeze too

By AMRITA JAYAKUMAR

Associated Press

Before you tackle lofty financial resolutions like paying off debt this year, do yourself a quick favor and freeze your credit reports. It's free, doesn't affect your credit score and helps protect your financial future.

Credit reports summarize your payment history with creditors and are automatically generated by the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Freezing them prevents fraudsters from opening a new line of credit using your personal information.

Data breaches may feel like an annoying fact of life, but the 2017 Equifax breach dramatically increased the likelihood that your personal information is out there, waiting to be misused.

"The Equifax data breach exposed the critical financial information of more than half of the American adult population," says Chi Chi Wu, staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center, a nonprofit advocacy organization. Data exposed includes Social Security numbers, names, birthdates, addresses and some driver's licenses. If the Equifax breach or any others have put your information in the hands of scammers, they could get a credit card or loan in your name, rack up debt and



This June 10, 2015, file photo shows a chip credit card in Philadelphia. Before you tackle lofty financial resolutions like paying off debt this year, do yourself a quick favor and freeze your credit reports.

wreck your credit.

WHY YOU SHOULD FREEZE YOUR CREDIT

Choosing to place a credit freeze — or not — boils down to how you think about your personal information being exposed. You could ignore it and hope nothing bad happens, or you could take action now to prevent damage. In a world where data breaches are commonplace, freezes aren't a luxury, they're a necessity. As a millennial building your financial life, you're better off protecting your credit as soon as possible.

Think of it as adding a deadbolt on your front door. You hope no one will be able to get through your existing lock, just as you hope personal data like your Social Security number stays private. But by adding

the deadbolt, you have an extra layer of protection in case that first lock is picked.

HOW FREE CREDIT FREEZES WORK

The process for placing a freeze differs slightly at each credit bureau, but you can do it online or over the phone. The freeze then blocks lenders from accessing your credit reports. If a bad actor applies for credit in your name, the lender

can't see your reports to make a lending decision and won't approve the application.

When you want to apply for credit, you unfreeze one or more of your reports by logging in to your account. (Experian gives you a special PIN to unfreeze the report). "It's something you can do with your phone even as you're walking into your lender's office," says John Ulzheimer, a credit expert who has worked at Equifax and credit scoring company FICO. You can also designate a period of time to temporarily lift the freeze, such as when shopping for a mortgage, Wu says.

Your credit score — the three-digit number that is based on information in your credit reports — is not affected. (You can check your own credit reports with no consequences to your score, whether you have a freeze or not.)

WHAT A CREDIT FREEZE DOES NOT DO

PROTECT AGAINST SOME FORMS OF IDENTITY THEFT.

A freeze stops new credit from being opened, but if someone has the details of your existing credit card, they could make fraudulent charges on it. If they have your Social Security number, they could file a fake tax return or claim Social Security benefits in your name. It's still essential to monitor your credit card transactions and other financial accounts and to report any suspected identity theft immediately, Wu says. □

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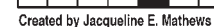
Conceptis Sudoku

Difficulty Level ★★

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CROSS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Unwanted e-mail
5 Smack
9 Slender
13 Friendlier
15 Lounge about
16 Donut's center
17 Mom's brother
18 Like terrible
 handwriting
20 "___ whiz!"
21 Clean the floor
23 Take into custody
24 Donahue &
 Mickelson
26 "Ready, __, go!"
27 Shrewd
29 Company
32 Packages of
 paper
33 Be a pack rat
35 Skirt's edge
37 Unruly crowds
38 Sudden forward
 rush
39 Actor Bridges
40 __ Brynner
41 Shoe bottoms
42 Pub game
43 __ soup
45 Most tender to
 the touch
46 Not at home
47 Reed or Fargo
48 Flat on one's
 back
51 Family card game
52 WWII president
55 Flat on one's face
58 Numerical
 comparison
60 Shrek, e.g.
61 British noble
62 Item in a bedding
 package
63 Golf shop
 purchase
64 Sunbeans
65 Painting &
 sculpturing
- DOWN**
- 1 __ as a bug in
 a rug



/23/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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1/23/19

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 38 Slowpoke | 48 Espy; notice |
| 39 Horse's home | 49 Egg on |
| 41 Hinder the
growth of | 50 ___ over; study
intently |
| 42 Generous ones | 53 Try to lose |
| 44 Sounds | 54 Goes bad |
| 45 Barron, to
Melania | 56 Battery size |
| 47 Sword fights | 57 Attempt |
| | 59 Cry of discovery |

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AP-NORC Poll: Disasters influence thinking on climate change

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER,
HANNAH FINGERHUT and
EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

When it comes to their views on climate change, Americans are looking at natural disasters and their local weather, according to a new poll.

Lately, that means record deadly wildfires in California, rainfall by the foot in Houston when Hurricane Harvey hit and the dome of smog over Salt Lake City that engineer Caleb Gregg steps into when he walks out his door in winter.

"I look at it every day," Gregg said from Salt Lake City, where winter days with some of the country's worst air starting a few years ago dinged the city's reputation as a pristine sports city and spurred state leaders to ramp up clean-air initiatives. "You look out and see pollution just sitting over the valley."

"I've never really doubted climate change - in the last five-ish years it's become even more evident, just by seeing the weather," the 25-year-old said. "We know we're polluting, and we know pollution is having an effect on the environment."

The poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago finds 74 percent of Americans say extreme weather in the past five years — hurricanes, droughts, floods and heat waves — has influenced their opinions about climate change. That includes half of Americans who say these recent events have influenced their thinking a great deal or a lot.



In this September 2017 file photo, Jessica Anderson, with her husband, Darrell, and daughters Lauren and Harper look at floodwaters in Addicks Reservoir from a closed freeway in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in Houston.

About as many, 71 percent, said the weather they experience daily in their own areas has influenced their thinking about climate change science.

The survey was conducted in November, a few days before the federal government released a major report revving up scientific warnings about the impact of climate change, including the growing toll of extreme storms and droughts. The share of Americans who said they think the climate is changing has held roughly steady over the last year — about 7 in 10 Americans think climate change is happening. Among those, 60 percent say climate change is caused mostly or entirely by humans, and another 28 percent think it's about an equal mix of human activities and natural changes.

Overall, 9 percent of Americans said climate change is not happening, and an-

other 19 percent said they were not sure.

The poll finds Americans' personal observations of real-time natural disasters and the weather around them have more impact than news stories or statements by religious or political leaders.

"It speaks to what we know of what people trust. They trust themselves and their own experiences," said Heidi Roop, a climate scientist at the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group who focuses on the science of climate change communication. For a long time, the idea that the acrid black billows from car and truck tailpipes and power plant smokestacks were altering the Earth's atmosphere still seemed abstract, with any impacts decades away.

"With the extreme events that we've been seeing, we're increasingly able to attribute, or pull out, how human-caused climate change is making those more severe," Roop said. When wildfires get bigger and more frequent, floods bigger and smog more entrenched, it begins to hit "the things that we all hold dear, and that's when people get affected and begin to connect the dots," Roop said.

Associated Press

But a minority of Americans still connect to different dots: While the poll finds most of those who believe in climate change say it's caused by human activity or an equal mix of human activity and natural causes, roughly 1 in 10 attribute climate change to natural changes in the environment.

In West Haven, Connecticut, 69-year-old Alan Perkins says he can see the climate is in fact changing — the Atlantic beaches a few blocks from his house are about a third smaller than when he used to play on the sand as a kid, Perkins said by phone. Scientists say climate change will mean warming oceans expand and waves get rougher, eating away at shorelines.

"I see erosion along our shorelines. Our beaches are getting smaller. I see that," Perkins said.

"I'm just not sure exactly how much we can do about that. I think nature takes care of a lot of it. Like when it rains it cleans the air. I think nature kind of takes care of itself," Perkins said. "A lot of it is just in God's hands, and he's in control."

Elizabeth Renz, a 62-year-old homemaker in Cincinnati, says the rise in tem-

peratures globally and the surge in natural disasters in the United States is "just happening naturally."

"Our Earth is cycling through it, and I don't know there's much we can do about it," she said.

She points to communities expanding into deserts and other unwelcoming terrain.

"We're living in areas that we shouldn't be living in," she said.

The poll shows that Americans are ready to pay more to deal with the changing climate — but not to pay very much.

A majority of Americans, 57 percent, would support a proposal that would add a \$1 monthly fee to their electricity bills to combat climate change. But most oppose proposals that would increase their own monthly costs by \$10 or more.

The poll also examined views on one of the Trump administration's proposals to roll back future mileage standards for cars and light trucks. That would hit one of the Obama administration's key efforts to reduce climate-changing fossil fuel emissions.

When told the proposal to freeze standards could lower the cost of vehicles — the Trump administration's argument for the rollback — 49 percent said they support the proposal, compared with 17 percent who were opposed. Another third said they neither support nor oppose.

But when the question suggested the freeze could mean greenhouse gas emissions would not be reduced, 45 percent said they oppose the proposal, compared with 21 percent who were in favor.

The poll also found majorities of Americans would support a tax on emissions of carbon-based fuels, such as coal, natural gas and oil, if the money generated were used to fund research and development for renewable energy (59 percent), to restore forests and wetlands (67 percent) or to boost public transportation (54 percent). □



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Oscar music nods: Gaga, Kendrick Lamar, SZA, Diane Warren

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga is a double nominee at the Academy Awards, where rapper Kendrick Lamar is nominated for the first time while songwriter Diane Warren is also vying for her first win with her 10th nomination.

Gaga scored best actress and best original song nominations Tuesday for her work in "A Star Is Born" — repeating the success Mary J. Blige achieved last year when she became the first person to compete for both acting and song-writing awards in the same year.

Gaga's "Shallow" was co-written with Anthony Rossomando, Andrew Wyatt and Mark Ronson, the producer behind hits for Amy Winehouse, Bruno Mars and more.

"I mean it's so incredible," Ronson said quietly Tuesday as he was boarding a flight. "It's insane and it's so wonderful."

Lamar's nomination for "All the Stars" from "Black Panther" puts him in a group of elite rappers to be nominated for an Oscar; Eminem, Common and Three 6 Mafia are all winners of best original song. The prestigious nomination comes a year after his "Damn" album won the Pulitzer Prize for music, making him the first non-classical or jazz artist to win the prize.

The nomination is also a major milestone for R&B singer SZA, who was the most nominated woman at last year's Grammys but walked away empty-handed. The Top 10 hit "All the Stars," which also earned co-writers Mark Spears and Anthony Tiffith nominations, is up for four Grammys at the Feb. 10 show and could finally win the singer an award.

Other original song nominees include "The Place Where Lost Things Go" from "Mary Poppins," written by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman; "When a Cowboy Trades His Spurs for Wings" from "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," written by



This combination photo shows musician Kendrick Lamar, left, and Solana Rowe, better known as SZA, who, along with Mark Spears and Anthony Tiffith, were nominated for an Oscar for best original song for "All the Stars," from the film "Black Panther."

Associated Press

David Rawlings and Gillian Welch; and "I'll Fight" from the Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary "RBG," written by Warren.

Warren joked about being up for her tenth Oscar without ever winning.

"I'm now in the double digits," Warren said, laughing. "I'm not jaded at all," she continued. "I need some coffee though because I'm sleep deprived. I was anxious so I was up and my friends came over and we basically had an all-night party waiting for the nominations." "I wanted to write a powerful song that captures what ... Ruth Bader Ginsburg does and what she's always done, which is fight. And she's still fighting and I'm sending good wishes out to her right now for a speedy recovery," Warren said of the U.S. Supreme Court justice, who recently underwent surgery to remove cancer nodules from a lung.

"Shallow" is the frontrunner and has won a number of original song honors so far, from the Golden Globes to Critics Choice Awards.

The song has become a radio hit, peaking at No. 5 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and scoring four Grammy nominations. The soundtrack, featuring songs co-written by Bradley Cooper as well as Gaga, is platinum and debuted at

No. 1 on the charts.

"(Gaga) painstakingly paid that much attention to making sure the songs were good and so did Bradley," Ronson said. "Bradley is such a giant music fan. I've seen him walking around Glastonbury Festival in England at 4 in the morning on a Sunday, like catching the last band. I think it was so important for him to get the music right on this."

Ronson and Gaga collaborated on her 2016 album "Joanne," a rock-pop-country adventure that was a departure from the dance-flavored electronic sound that made her a multiplatinum juggernaut. Ronson said their closeness helped make "Shallow" great. □

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A goofy, sweet and modern spin on Arthurian legend

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

The Arthurian legend gets a modern and more youthful spin in "The Kid Who Would Be King," a surprisingly delightful film full of action, heart, a crazy-haired Patrick Stewart (as "old" Merlin) and a few genuinely good gags, and it really couldn't have come at a better time.

It's an Amblin-esque movie about fantasy, geek culture and outcasts that's actually been made for modern kids — not nostalgic adults who crave both the cozy comfort of the things they grew up with, but, like, with way more violence, gore and nudity. "The Kid Who Would Be King" reclaims the fantasy genre for actual kids of today. And it's not even set in the 1980s.

You can thank writer and director Joe Cornish for the restraint (although the score is pretty heavy on the synths). The film is his follow-up to "Attack the Block," the cult sci-fi hit that helped put "Star Wars'" John Boyega on the map. Here he



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows Louis Ashbourne Serkis in a scene from "The Kid Who Would Be King."

introduces audiences to some other young talents to watch, including Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Andy Serkis' son, as the would-be king, Alex.

Alex is a normal and slightly dorky lower-middle class British schoolkid, living with his mom (Denise Gough).

He struggles with everyday stuff — waking up on time, completing his school assignments and protecting his buddy, Bedders (a truly wonderful Dean Chaumoo), from schoolyard bullies named Lance and Kaye, but he's trying his best.

Then one night, running from Lance (Tom Taylor)

and Kaye (Rihanna Dorris), Alex spots a sword in the middle of a construction site and removes it from the stone with ease. He and Bedders plug the inscription into Google translate and try to keep their imaginations in check when they realize that it might be real, but, both the audience and the boys will fail at this.

From here, the film just gets grander and weirder, with the introduction of Young Merlin (featuring a brilliant comedic performance from Angus Imrie), and the enemy, Morgana (Rebecca Ferguson). Morgana, we're told, is Arthur's power-crazy half-sister who has been waiting for centuries for the perfect moment to rise. Although Brexit isn't explicitly mentioned, it is the not-so-subtle context for all of this.

When creatures start attacking at night, Bedders and Alex decide to enlist Lance and Kaye to help. They might be bullies, but they're also the strongest, and Alex figures it's worth the risk.

And what follows is a big, classic quest as the four kids journey through the countryside and learn about sword fighting, the chivalric code, teamwork, trust, and the Lady of the Lake (who can be conjured in any body of water). Although basically unknowns, all the young actors have charm to spare and carry the film admirably. □

Associated Press

Deerhunter balances bleak with upbeat on new album

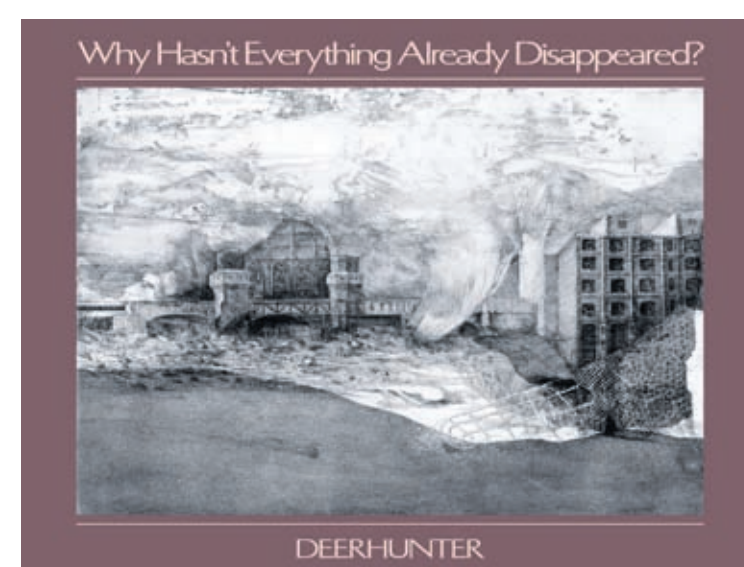
By **RAGAN CLARK**
Associated Press

Deerhunter, "Why Hasn't Everything Already Disappeared?" (4AD)

Leveled, steady, Bradford Cox coaxes, "Come on down from that cloud/And cast your fears aside."

That perfect line leads Deerhunter's "Why Hasn't Everything Already Disappeared?" — cradling listeners in choruses that describe imminent oblivion.

Deerhunter's latest album is bleak, but in such a way that invokes a sense of calm in an anxious, disparaging world. Fading time, fading individuality, a fading world: these are realities frontman Cox and bandmates — Lockett Pundt, Moses Archuleta, Josh McKay and Javier Morales — have accepted. Con-



This cover image released by 4ad shows "Why Hasn't Everything Already Disappeared," by Deerhunter.

sistent with their past work, "Why Hasn't Everything Already Disappeared?" can't be boxed into a single genre, with punk and pop tones among others. As the group's eighth LP,

the band is comfortable in its own lack of sonic cohesion. The harpsichord on "Death in Midsummer" provides a Western tinge, yet avoids being nostalgic with the layering of synth. □

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Lagerfeld absent from Chanel's 18th-century couture

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — It's snowing in Paris, but that didn't matter for Chanel, which showcased frothy, 18th-century inspired couture inside a lavish, sunlit Italian villa.

For once, Karl Lagerfeld didn't take his usual bow — the house said the octogenarian designer was fatigued.

Some highlights of the spring-summer 2019 couture collections on Tuesday:

KARL LAGERFELD ABSENT

Chanel's designer Lagerfeld, who has looked increasingly frail in recent seasons, did not come out to take a bow at the house's couture collections in Paris because he was "tired."

In his place, his longtime studio director Virginie Viard appeared through a door in the lavish Italian villa decor that had been painstakingly created by the house. It immediately prompted surprise and visible sadness from many fashion editors attending the show at the Grand Palais. At the end of the first show at 10am, an announcement explained the designer would appear for the noon presentation. But come noon, the German-born couturier was absent again. It's the first time in



Models wear creations for the Chanel Spring/Summer 2019 Haute Couture fashion collection presented in Paris, Tuesday Jan. 22, 2019.

recent memory Lagerfeld, who has designed for the Parisian stalwart since 1983 and was a contemporary of the late Yves Saint Laurent, has not been physically present to receive applause at the end of his shows. In a statement, Chanel said "for the traditional greeting at the end of the show, Mr. Lagerfeld, artistic director of Chanel, who was feeling tired" asked Viard "to represent him" — without providing any further details.

VILLA CHANEL'S COUTURE

A gentle geometry defined Chanel's summer silhouette on Tuesday — one that riffed on the decor's impressive architecture. The set this season featured a shimmering Italian Chanel villa center-stage, with steps that led the gaze down to myriad real palm trees, grass and a rectangular swimming pool.

A silvery skirt-suit, a house signature, opened the show with a slit running down the leg to the season's new shoe: a backless

pointed heel with a full-fronted panel. Marie Antoinette-style full skirts fared less well as the display progressed, with the weight of the tiered silk fabric making the designs look somewhat limp. The slit also morphed into an exploration of unfurling styles in some jackets that seemed to open up like the scented flowers in the villa's verdant gardens.

SOFIA COPPOLA

"Marie Antoinette" director Sofia Coppola was among VIP guests invited to admire

Villa Chanel's 18th-century full skirted designs.

"I did think of Marie Antoinette when I saw the pink dresses at the end. They were beautiful," she told AP. "(It evoked) a bygone era to see the dresses with the feathers up close," she added. Coppola, who has won the best director award at the Cannes Film Festival, has come a long way since she first forged ties with the Parisian house — as a nervous teenage intern.

"I was really intimidated... It was thrilling to be 15 in Paris in the '80s at Chanel," she said. "It was during the couture, so it was incredible seeing it being made."

ALEXIS MABILLE'S VERSATILE BOW

French designer Alexis Mabille's signature bow made a recurrent appearance in varying sizes, styles and colors at his demure couture display Tuesday.

It began as a front detail on a truncated, shoulder-less little black dress.

Then, the mischievous item cropped up as a cinched belt on a coral red gown or a long pink satin one with divergent stripes.

Going retro, the bow was conjured up as a '70s jabot collar on a Farrah Fawcett-like blue silk column dress. □

Notre Dame to cover up murals of Columbus in the New World

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)

— The University of Notre Dame will cover murals in a campus building that depict Christopher Columbus in America, the school's president said, following criticism that the images depict Native Americans in stereotypical submissive poses before white European explorers.

The 12 murals created in the 1880s by Luis Gregori were intended to encourage immigrants who had come to the U.S. during a period of anti-Catholic sentiment. But they conceal another side of Columbus: the exploitation and repression of Native Americans, said



This Nov. 29, 2017, photo shows a murals of Christopher Columbus at Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Associated Press

the Rev. John Jenkins, president of Notre Dame.

It is a "darker side of this story, a side we must acknowledge," Jenkins said in

a letter Sunday.

The murals in the Catholic university's Main Building are painted directly on walls.

Jenkins said they will be covered, although they still could be occasionally displayed.

A permanent display of photos of the paintings will be created elsewhere with an explanation of their context.

"We wish to preserve artistic works originally intended to celebrate immigrant Catholics who were marginalized at the time in society, but do so in a way that avoids unintentionally marginalizing others," Jenkins said.

In 2017, more than 300 students, employees and Notre Dame alumni signed a letter in the campus newspaper that called for

the removal of the murals.

The president of the Native American Student Association praised Jenkins' decision.

"This is a good step towards acknowledging the full humanity of those native people who have come before us," said Marcus Winchester-Jones of Dowagiac, Michigan.

But Notre Dame law student Grant Strobl said the decision was disappointing.

"If we adopt the standard of judging previous generations by current standards, we may reach a point where there are no longer accomplishments to celebrate," Strobl said. □

Is winter miserable for wildlife?

By Bridget B. Baker
Associated Press

While the weather outside may indeed get frightful this winter, a parka, knit hat, wool socks, insulated boots and maybe a roaring fire make things bearable for people who live in cold climates. But what about all the wildlife out there? Won't they be freezing?

Anyone who's walked their dog when temperatures are frigid knows that canines will shiver and favor a cold paw – which partly explains the boom in the pet clothing industry. But chipmunks and cardinals don't get fashionable coats or booties.

In fact, wildlife can succumb to frostbite and hypothermia, just like people and pets. In the northern United States, the unfurred tails of opossums are a common casualty of cold exposure. Every so often an unusual cold snap in Florida results in iguanas falling from trees and manatees dying from cold stress.

Avoiding the cold is important for preserving life or limb (or, in the opossum's case, tail) and the opportunity to reproduce. These biological imperatives mean that wildlife must be able to feel cold, in order to try to avoid the damaging effects of its extremes. Animal species have their own equivalent to what human beings experience as that unpleasant biting mixed with pins-and-needles sensation that urges us to warm up soon or suffer the consequences. In fact, the nervous system mechanisms for sensing a range of temperatures are pretty much the same among all vertebrates.

One winter challenge for warm-blooded animals, or endotherms, as they're scientifically known, is to maintain their internal body temperature in cold conditions. Interestingly though, temperature-sensing thresholds can vary depending on physiology. For instance, a cold-blooded – that is, ectothermic – frog will sense cold starting at a lower temperature com-



Ice crystals cover glass in Detroit, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019. Falling temperatures replaced the weekend's falling snow Monday as bitter cold and gusty winds swept across the eastern United States.

pared to a mouse. Recent research shows that hibernating mammals, like the thirteen-lined ground squirrel, don't sense the cold until lower temperatures than endotherms that don't hibernate.

So animals know when it's cold, just at varying temperatures. When the mercury plummets, are wildlife suffering or just going with the icy flow?

One solution: Slow down and check out

Many cold-climate endotherms exhibit torpor: a state of decreased activ-

ity. They look like they are sleeping. Because animals capable of torpor alternate between internally regulating their body temperature and allowing the environment to influence it, scientists consider them "heterotherms."

During harsh conditions, this flexibility offers the advantage of a lower body temperature – remarkably in some species, even below the 32 degrees Fahrenheit freezing point – that is not compatible with many physiologic functions. The result is a lower metabolic rate,

and thus lower energy and food demand. Hibernation is a prolonged version of torpor.

Unfortunately, torpor is not a perfect solution to surviving frigid conditions since it comes with trade-offs, such as a higher risk of becoming another animal's lunch. Adaptations that help

Unsurprisingly, animals have evolved other adaptations for weathering the winter months. Wildlife species at northern latitudes tend to be larger-bodied with smaller appendages than their close

relatives closer to the tropics. Many animals have evolved behaviors to help them beat the cold: herding, denning, burrowing and roosting in cavities are all good defenses. And some animals experience physiological changes as winter approaches, building fat reserves, growing thicker fur, and trapping an insulating layer of air against the skin beneath the fur or feathers.

Nature has devised other neat tricks to help various animals deal with conditions that people, for instance, would be unable to endure.

Have you ever wondered how geese can appear to stand comfortably on ice or squirrels in snow in their bare feet? The secret is the close proximity of the arteries and veins in their extremities that creates a gradient of warming and cooling. As blood from the heart travels to the toes, the warmth from the artery transfers to the vein carrying cold blood from the toes back to the heart. This countercurrent heat exchange allows the core of the body to remain warm while limiting heat loss when the extremities are cold, but not so cold that tissue damage occurs. This efficient system is used by many terrestrial and aquatic birds and mammals, and even explains how oxygen exchange occurs in the gills of fish.

Speaking of fish, how do they not freeze from the inside out in icy waters? Luckily, ice floats because water is most dense as a liquid, allowing fish to swim freely in not-quite-freezing temperatures below the solidified surface. Additionally, fish may lack the cold-sensing receptor shared by other vertebrates. They do, however, have unique enzymes that allow physiologic functions to continue at colder temperatures. In polar regions, fish even have special "anti-freeze proteins" that bind to ice crystals in their blood to prevent widespread crystallization. □



In this June 13, 2017, file photo, the parents of this 7-week old red wolf pup keep an eye on their offspring at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press